

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



GATHERING FOREST PRODUCTS

CHRISTMAS TREE-CUTTING PERMITS

Christmas, for many, is a time to step away from the hectic pace of life and gather with family and friends to share in the spirit of the holiday season. This could include going to the forest to get the family Christmas tree. If you decide to make the trip to the mountains for a tree, be sure to be prepared for wet, cold winter weather.

In September, usually right after Labor Day, information concerning the Annual Christmas tree-cutting program, sponsored by several Arizona national forests, is disseminated to the media and posted on the Tonto National Forest website www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto. Additionally, some forests sell tree-cutting tags over the counter.

The **Christmas Tree Hotline at (602) 225-5258** is updated, September – December, as new information becomes available:

CUTTING AREAS

The cutting areas are determined by conditions on each forest. Not all Arizona national forests participate each year. Maps of available cutting areas for Christmas trees are posted on the website and a copy of the map of your cutting area is provided with your permit.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How many Christmas tree permits may I purchase?

A: Only individuals or families may purchase tree tags to be used in their household. Only one tag per residence is allowed. Businesses, organizations, or schools may not participate in this household-targeted program. No tree harvested under this program may be resold.

Q: How large a tree may I cut?

A: Up to ten feet in height.

Q: May I cut a tree for my friends, if I take their permits with me?

A: Yes

Q: How much does a Christmas tree permit cost?

A: In 2008, the price for a Christmas tree-cutting tag increased from \$10 to \$15 to cover the cost of administering the program.

Q: May a tree be obtained for a church, organization, company or a school?

A: No, this program is intended for individual family use only.

Q: When may we cut the tree?

A: The cutting period is normally around the end of November (a date is specified annually) up to midnight, December 24.

Q: When do I attach my permit to the tree?

A: Immediately after cutting your tree.

Q: How will I know where to find my tree?

A: A map of the cutting area is provided with each permit.

Q: What will happen to me if I cut a tree without a permit?

A: Anyone cutting a tree without a valid permit can be fined and your tree confiscated.

Q: Where can I obtain more information?

A: From the **Christmas tree Hotline at (602) 225-5258**, at any of the participating forest service offices, or on the Tonto National Forest website www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto